

### *CIA probe explained*

FILES KEPT by the Central Intelligence Agency on the Church of Scientology were the result of "idle, or perhaps mischievous, bureaucratic interest," former CIA official Victor Marchetti said this week. Marchetti, in a letter made public by the church after he had reviewed documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, said the church and its members "were victims of government paranoia, not unlike that which was heaped upon other 'different' religious movements in times past—the Mormons, the Amish, and similar independent groups." Among the documents were papers indicating the CIA and Navy Adm. Rufus Taylor, deputy director of the spy agency in 1968, were keeping tabs on the church, Marchetti said. "At the time, I was the executive assistant to Admiral Taylor, and I cannot remember anything that would have caused the CIA to have any concern in the activities of your religious movement," he said, labeling the spy activities "harassment." Scientology, founded by writer L. Ron Hubbard in the 1950s, is described as "an applied religious philosophy" which aims to aid better self-understanding and communications with others.

org / Scientists

CIA 1.04 MAR chetty  
Victor

CIA 2.05. 1 FOIA